

Message Text

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PAGE 01 HALIFA 00042 271710Z

65

ACTION EUR-12

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PINT, CA

SUBJ: MORE ON FORMER PRIME MINISTER DIEFENBAKER'S
VISIT TO HALIFAX

REF: HALIFAX 0038

1. PRIOR TO MAKING SPEECH ON JANUARY 26 HONORING
MARITIME BUSINESSMAN, MITCHELL FRANKLIN, FORMER PRIME
MINISTER GRANTED INTERVIEW TO THE PRESS. PRIMARY SUBJECT
WAS STATUS OF LEONARD JONES, INDEPENDENT MP FOR MONCTON.
MR DIEFENBAKER SAID THE OUSTER OF JONES FROM THE
PROGRESSIVE CONSERVATIVE (PC) PARTY SHOULD BE RECONSIDERED.
ALTHOUGH AVOIDING DIRECT QUESTIONS ON ACTION TAKEN BY
PC LEADER ROBERT STANFIELD IN REMOVING JONES FROM PARTY
IN 1974, MR DIEFENBAKER ATTRIBUTED DECISION TO
ELITISTS IN THE PARTY AND SAID IT WAS DETRIMENTAL TO THE
PARTY. MR DIEFENBAKER SAID THAT, "IF DISAGREEING WITH
PARTY POLICY WAS A CRITERION FOR OSTRACISM I D HAVE
BEEN OUT OF THE PARTY LONG AGO". THE FORMER PRIME
MINISTER SAID A CONSTITUENCY MEETING IN MONCTON SHOULD
DECIDE MR JONES' FUTURE IN THE PARTY. "IN OUR PARTY THE
POWER OF THE CONSTITUENCY TO DECIDE ON THESE MATTERS
MUST BE PROTECTED."

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PAGE 02 HALIFA 00042 271710Z

WM MR DIEFENBAKER ALSO TALKED ABOUT THE SOFTENING

ATTITUDE IN THE WEST TOWARDS THE WIDENING SPHERE OF SOVIET INFLUENCE, SAYING, "I HAVE OFTEN BEEN CRITICIZED FOR THIS VIEW BEFORE BUT I BELIEVE THAT THE USSR, UNDER DETENTE, IS BUILDING ITSELF INTO THE STRONGEST MILITARY POWER ON EARTH." "FOR A TIME I BELIEVED THE USSR HAD SOFTENED ITS ATTITUDE BUT TODAY IT HAS ITS FIST AROUND THE NECK OF THE WESTERN NATIONS."

3. AT THE TESTIMONIAL SPEECH ITSELF MR DIEFENBAKER SAID IT WAS THE DUTY OF THE UNITED STATES TO MAINTAIN A WORLD ROLE BECAUSE THE U S HAS WORLD RESPONSIBILITIES. HE SAID HE WAS CONCERNED THAT PRESSURES ON THE UNITED STATES IN CONNECTION WITH ITS INTERNATIONAL PEACE-KEEPING EFFORTS WERE DRIVING THE COUNTRY TOWARDS NEUTRALISM AT A TIME WHEN ITS INFLUENCE WAS NEEDED THROUGHOUT THE WORLD. HE LIKENED THE ROLE OF THE U S TO THAT CARRIED BY GREAT BRITAIN FOR OVER 200 YEARS.

4. THE FORMER PRIME MINISTER ALSO DISCUSSED ISRAEL SINCE MR FRANKLIN HAD DONE SO MUCH FOR THE DEVELOPMENT TS THE STATE OF ISRAEL. MR DIEFENBAKER SAID THAT, "ISRAEL IS ENTITLED TO BORDERS PROTECTED BY INTERNATIONAL AGREEMENTS AND ITS CITIZENS HAVE THE RIGHT TO LIVE IN PEACE". HE DESCRIBED AS UNJUST EFFORTS BY THE INTERNATIONAL COMMUNITY TO EXERT MORE AND MORE PRESSURE ON ISRAEL TO MAKE MORE AND MORE CONCESSIONS.

5. CONGEN EXPECTS TO RECEIVE FULL TEXT OF SPEECH. MANBEY

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